IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim [[8] 6, characterized in that xenon is present in a pharmacologically effective amount.

3. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim [[8] 6 characterized in that the preparation for cerebral protection further comprises oxygen and an inert gas.

4. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim [[8]] 6, characterized in that the preparation is used as a combination product with a gaseous, liquid or solid preparation comprising an NO source, for simultaneous, separate or sequential use.

5. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 9 where xenon and the NO source are present in pharmacologically effective concentrations.

6. (Currently amended) ~~The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the preparation is used~~ In a method of treating a patient characterized in that a xenon preparation is provided in a form selected from the group consisting of xenon and a xenon containing gas mixture, administering the xenon to a patient in a subanesthetic amount wherein what is administered to the patient contains no more than 70% by volume of xenon and when the preparation itself contains more than 70% by volume xenon the preparation is metered into the patient's respiratory gas so that the combined gas supplied to the patient contains from 5 to 70% by volume xenon, and the preparation is administered to a patient for a condition selected from the group consisting of the treatment of impairments of blood flow in the brain, the treatment of impairment of cerebral perfusion, the treatment of cognitive impairments, cerebral protection, the ~~prophylaxis and/or~~

therapy of impairments of cognitive performance and also postoperatively, the treatment of stroke, ~~the prophylaxis of stroke,~~ improving the oxygen supply in the brain, the treatment of post-ischemia syndrome, promoting blood flow in the brain, the treatment ~~or prophylaxis~~ of postoperative cognitive dysfunction, and cerebral vasodilatation, selecting as a patient some one having such condition, and administering the xenon preparation to the patient having such condition.

7. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the preparation is used for a condition selected from the group consisting of cerebral protection, cerebral vasodilatation, and the treatment, therapy ~~or prophylaxis~~ of impairments of cognitive performance or cognitive dysfunction.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim [[8]] 6, wherein the preparation further comprises an NO source.

10. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim [[8]] 6, characterized in that the preparation further comprises oxygen.

11. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim [[8]] 6, characterized in that the preparation consists of xenon.

12. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim [[8]] 6, characterized in that the preparation consists of xenon and an NO source.

13. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim [[8]] 6, characterized in that the preparation consists of xenon and oxygen.

14. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim [[8]] 6, characterized in that the preparation consists of xenon, oxygen and an inert gas.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)